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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as shown below, in which deleted terms are shown with strikethrough and/or double brackets, and added terms are shown with underscoring. Also, please add new claims 10-15. This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Claim 1 (currently amended). An electronic key system for a vehicle including a controller (14) mounted in the vehicle (~~100B~~) and a portable transceiver (12) carried by a user of the vehicle,

the vehicle (~~100B~~) ~~containing~~ comprising a locking unit (64) ~~for causing which locks the vehicle (100B) to be locked~~ so that use of the vehicle is not possible until a lock release command is received, and

wherein the controller (14) comprises:

~~means, made up of a plurality of switches provided in the vehicle (100B), for outputting a~~ transmitter that outputs a request signal (Sr) to the portable transceiver (12) in response to an ON operation of a predetermined switch (~~70~~), the predetermined switch previously determined from among a plurality of switches positioned in the vicinity of the user when the user boards the vehicle (~~100B~~);

~~means for detecting~~ a receiver which receives an acknowledgement signal, (Sa) in response to the request signal, (Sr) from the portable transceiver (12); and

~~means for,~~ a drive unit which, when the acknowledgement signal (Sa) is compared and judged to be a request from the ~~normal~~ user, ~~outputting~~ outputs a lock release command to the locking unit (~~64~~).

Claim 2 (currently amended). The electronic key system for a vehicle according to claim 1, further comprising:

~~means for, if the vehicle (100B) is not started for a specified period of time, interrupting an~~
interrupting unit which interrupts a supply of power to at least circuits (44), inside the controller (14),
that perform communication; and

~~means, made up of a plurality of switches provided in the vehicle (100B), for carrying out~~
~~supply of an~~ interrupting unit controller which permits the switching unit to supply power to the
circuits (44) in response to an ON operation of a the predetermined switch (70) ~~among a plurality of~~
~~switches positioned in the vicinity of the user~~ when the user boards the vehicle (100B).

Claim 3 (currently amended). The electronic key system for a vehicle according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of switches are operational switches used for starting the engine of the vehicle (100B), providing safety during travel, and stopping the vehicle (100B).

Claim 4 (currently amended). The electronic key system for a vehicle according to claim 1, wherein a switch for detecting that the user has boarded the vehicle (100B) is included as one of the plurality of switches.

Claim 5 (currently amended). An electronic key system for a vehicle ~~including~~ comprising a controller (14) mounted in the vehicle (100B) and a portable transmitter (12) carried by a user of the vehicle,

the vehicle (100B) containing a locking unit (64) ~~for causing~~ which locks the vehicle (100B) to

~~be locked~~ so that the vehicle (100B) cannot be used until a lock release command is received,

the portable transmitter (12) ~~containing means for outputting~~ comprising a transmitter unit that
outputs a request signal (Sq) to the controller (14) in response to operation input by the user, and

wherein the controller (14) comprises:

~~means, made up of a plurality of switches provided in the vehicle (100B), for receiving a~~
receiver which receives a request signal (Sq) from the portable transmitter (12) in response to an ON
operation of a predetermined switch (70), the predetermined switch being previously identified from
among a plurality of switches positioned in the vicinity of the user when the user boards the vehicle
(100B); and

~~means for,~~ a drive unit which outputs a lock release command to the locking unit when the
request signal (Sq) is compared and judged to be a request from the ~~normal~~ user, outputting a lock
release command to the locking unit (64).

Claim 6 (currently amended). The electronic key system for a vehicle according to claim 5,
further comprising:

~~means for, if the vehicle (100B) is not started for a specified period of time, interrupting an~~
interrupting unit which interrupts, if the vehicle is not started for a specified period of time, the supply
of power to at least circuits (44), inside the controller (14), that perform communication; and

~~means, made up of a plurality of switches provided in the vehicle (100B), for carrying out~~
supply of an interrupting unit controller which permits the interrupting unit to provide power to the
circuits (44) in response to an ON operation of a the predetermined switch (70) ~~among a plurality of~~
~~switches positioned in the vicinity of the user~~ when the user boards the vehicle (100B).

Claim 7 (currently amended). The electronic key system for a vehicle according to claim 5, further comprising:

~~means for, if the vehicle (100B) is not started for a specified period of time, intermittently~~
supplying a switching unit which permits an intermittent supply of power to be provided to at least circuits (44), inside the controller (14), that perform communication if the vehicle is not started for a predetermined period of time; and

~~means, made up of a plurality of switches provided in the vehicle (100B), for carrying out a~~
switching unit controller which permits the switching unit to provide a normal supply of power to the
circuits (44) in response to ON operation of a the predetermined switch (70) ~~among a plurality of~~
~~switches positioned in the vicinity of the user~~ when the user boards the vehicle (100B).

Claim 8 (currently amended). The electronic key system for a vehicle according to claim 5, wherein the plurality of switches are operational switches used for starting the engine of the vehicle (100B), providing safety during travel, and stopping the vehicle (100B).

Claim 9 (currently amended). The electronic key system for a vehicle according to claim 5, wherein a switch for detecting that the user has boarded the vehicle (100B) is included as one of the plurality of switches.

Claim 10 (new). An electronic key system for a vehicle including a controller mounted in the vehicle and a portable transceiver carried by a user of the vehicle,

the vehicle comprising a locking unit which locks the vehicle so that use of the vehicle is not possible until a lock release command is received, and

wherein the controller comprises:

a transmitter that outputs a request signal to the portable transceiver in response to an ON operation of a switch, the switch selectable from among a plurality of switches positioned in the vicinity of the user when the user boards the vehicle;

a receiver which receives an acknowledgement signal, in response to the request signal, from the portable transceiver; and

a drive unit which, when the acknowledgement signal is compared and judged to be a request from the user, outputs a lock release command to the locking unit.

Claim 11 (new). The electronic key system for a vehicle according to claim 10, further comprising:

an interrupting unit which prevents, if the vehicle is not started for a specified period of time, the supply of power to at least circuits, inside the controller, that perform communication; and

an interrupting unit controller which permits the interrupting unit to provide power to the circuits in response to an ON operation of the switch when the user boards the vehicle.

Claim 12 (new). The electronic key system for a vehicle according to claim 10, further comprising:

a switching unit which permits an intermittent supply of power to be provided to at least circuits, inside the controller, that perform communication if the vehicle is not started for a specified period of time; and

a switching unit controller which permits the switching unit to provide a normal supply of power to the circuits in response to ON operation of the switch when the user boards the vehicle.

Claim 13 (new). The electronic key system for a vehicle according to claim 10 wherein the switch is located at an approximate center of the vehicle.

Claim 14 (new). The electronic key system for a vehicle according to claim 10 wherein the switch is selected from the group comprising a lighting dimmer switch, a clutch switch, an indicator switch, a horn switch, and a brake switch.

Claim 15 (new). The electronic key system for a vehicle according to claim 10 wherein the switch is located on a steering mechanism of the vehicle.